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The Courier Leader

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Arcade to host 16th annual Midwest Soda Pop Festival

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

After a short delay due to road construction, the Midwest Soda Pop Festival is back for its 16th year. On this Sunday, October 5, from noon to 4 p.m., Klassic Arcade 1.0 on M-40 will transform into a celebration of sweet nostalgia, family fun, and community spirit.

What began as a small gathering for soda enthusiasts has grown into one of Southwest Michigan's most anticipated fall traditions. The festival invites visitors to sip their way through a wide variety of sodas, from classic colas to quirky craft flavors, all while enjoying an afternoon of music, games, and entertainment.

This year's event promises plenty to see and do. Children can dive into activities at the kids' corner, test their luck at music bingo, or even send a local volunteer into the splash of the dunk tank. Shoppers will find a lively craft and vendor market, where artisans and food makers display their wares. And filling the air will be the sounds of The Nikki Prince Band, bringing a live soundtrack to the day's festivities.

The festival also holds a deeper purpose. Proceeds benefit the Big Dreamers Scholarship Fund, which awards $1,000 each to one graduate from Paw Paw and Gobles High Schools. It's a reminder that the fizz and flavor of the event extend well beyond the soda bottles, leaving a lasting impact in the community.

For car lovers, the celebration is expanding with the Fizz & Fenders Car Meet, held alongside the festival. Drivers will roll in beginning at 11 a.m. to showcase classics, hot rods, exotics, and trucks. Spaces are limited, but the show promises to add chrome and horsepower to the festival's fizz.

Best of all, the Midwest Soda Pop Festival remains free to attend, making it an easy destination for families looking for an afternoon outing. Organizers recommend coming early, as vendor spots and parking tend to fill quickly.

With a mix of sweet flavors, small-town charm, and the roar of engines, this year's festival captures both the taste of tradition and the joy of community celebration. More information, including updates and vendor registration, can be found on the festival's website − https://sodapopfest.com

Soup Suppers return to Decatur

Jordan Wilcox
Assistant Publisher

The familiar aroma of simmering soup will soon fill the fellowship hall at the Holy Family Catholic Church as Decatur's long-running Soup Suppers return for another season. The community tradition, now more than two decades old, raises funds for the Decatur Human Services Pantry while bringing neighbors together over a hot meal.

The 2025–26 schedule begins Friday, October 10, with First Baptist Church sponsoring the evening meal. Other sponsors include Green Dance, Decatur Schools, Emmanuel Church of God, Decatur Bible Church, the Presbyterians, and Holy Family. Each supper runs from 4 to 5:30 p.m., with tickets held at $5—a price that has remained unchanged since 2017 despite rising food costs.

Diners can expect a choice of three soups, chili, salad, bread, drinks, and a spread of desserts. Seconds are encouraged, and takeout is available. Some suppers will feature special menus, such as the VFW's offerings of chili, chicken noodle, French onion, and potato soup.

The effort has been sustained through years of change. In the early 2010s, as many as 17 groups participated in the rotation, including youth organizations and civic clubs. Today, fewer groups remain active due to the labor and expense of preparing large batches of soup, though organizers emphasize that the spirit of service continues.

Since 2011, the Holy Family Catholic Church has opened its doors free of charge to host the meals, ensuring the suppers' survival after the Decatur Township pantry moved facilities. Volunteers Dan and Kathy Northrup are among those who handle much of the setup, cooking, and cleanup, while longtime organizer Jan Roeder credits the generosity of both helpers and attendees for keeping the suppers going.

Crowds often arrive as soon as the doors open, with most seats filled by 4:45 p.m. Although some suggest longer hours, organizers note that the early schedule allows volunteers to finish by evening's end and still catch local events.

For many, the suppers are just as much about fellowship as they are fundraising. Residents from surrounding towns return year after year, while loyal regulars consider it a tradition. With bowls of soup and fresh bread shared across tables, the gatherings remain a cornerstone of Decatur's community spirit.

The season will conclude on May 1, 2026, with a supper hosted by the Holy Family Catholic Church.

Deputy, K9 honored in Washington DC

NCMEC CEO Michelle DeLaune alongside Van Buren County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Calhoun and retired K-9 Kuno. In seven years with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office, Kuno and Dep. Calhoun safely located five missing children. Kuno retired in 2024.

Photo courtesy/ NCMEC

Story continues on page 6

Bloomingdale Communications marks 120th anniversary

Bloomingdale Communications is marking its 120th anniversary in 2025. Team members are shown at the recently held Bloomindale Oktoberfest, from left, Ray Lewis, network engineer; Janeen Horton, assistant general manager; Billy Rodriguez cybersecurity administrator; Shelly Jones, customer care representative; Josh Dros, director of outside plant operations; Katy Drumm, Level 1 technical support; and Steve Shults, general manager/CEO.

Courier-Leader photo/Paul Garrod

BLOOMINGDALE - In the winter of 1904, a father saddled his horse and rode through the snow to save his infant son. That ride - urgent, determined, and fueled by love - sparked a movement that would connect generations.

Arthur D. Shaw, a farmer south of Bloomingdale, couldn't call for help when his baby fell ill. There was no phone in his home, no line to the doctor in town. So, he rode to a neighbor's house, borrowed their phone, and summoned Dr. Scott. The child recovered, but Shaw's resolve was permanent: no family should be without a lifeline.

That winter, Shaw rallied his neighbors. Each contributed $14 - roughly $300 today – and together they built a telephone line. Poles were cut, wires strung, and the earliest version of Bloomingdale Telephone Company was born. By 1908, the "Shaw Line" had merged with the Kibbie Telephone Company, and a switchboard was installed in a home on Spring Street. The community had spoken - and connected.

Over the next century, Bloomingdale Communications would grow, evolve, and innovate. It absorbed neighboring companies, weathered economic storms, and embraced new technologies. In 1955, it transitioned from a cooperative to a stock-for-profit company, unlocking access to federal loans and modernizing its infrastructure. By 1957, automatic switching had arrived. By 1969, single-party buried lines were approved - thanks to the persistence of President Ralph Remington and a petition signed by the community.

The 1980s brought modular phones and new buildings. The 1990s ushered in DSL and digital switching. And by the early 2000s, Bloomingdale was offering long-distance service, satellite TV, and high-speed internet - becoming the first in Southwest Michigan to deliver DSL.

In the heart of Southwest Michigan, where rolling fields meet tight-knit communities, Bloomingdale Communications continues to write a story of progress - one mile of fiber at a time.

For over a century, Bloomingdale has stood as a pillar of rural connectivity. But in the last decade, its impact has accelerated, thanks to a series of transformative broadband projects that have reshaped how local families, schools, and businesses connect to the world.

It began in 2012, when the company was awarded a landmark $5.65 million grant under the Broadband Technology Opportunity Program. That investment led to the creation of the Van Buren Fiber Ring - a 137.5-mile network that linked schools, libraries, and anchor institutions across Van Buren County, including Pullman Elementary in the Bloomingdale School District.

Communities like Gobles, Lawton, and South Haven, once underserved, gained access to high-speed service for the first time.

"That ring wasn't just fiber - it was a foundation," said a company spokesperson. "It allowed us to reach places we'd only dreamed of serving and laid the groundwork for everything that followed."

From 2018 to 2021, Bloomingdale returned to its roots with a $12 million USDA RUS loan, modernizing its historic Bloomingdale Telephone Exchange with Fiber to the Home. The project honored the company's 120-year legacy while preparing it for the next century of service.

Then came the ReConnect era. In 2020, Bloomingdale secured $10.72 million in ReConnect Round 1 funding to expand fiber into rural Allegan and Van Buren counties. Despite pandemic-era setbacks - including supply chain disruptions and inflation - the project regained momentum thanks to supplemental support from USDA-RUS and local townships like Almena, Arlington, and Pine Grove.

By 2021, the company had earned another $6.72 million in ReConnect Round 2 funding, bringing fiber to two more unserved areas. Like its predecessors, the project was completed on time and under budget - a testament to Bloomingdale's planning, grit, and community-first approach.

Today, Bloomingdale Communications stands not only as a service provider, but as a steward of rural progress. Its fiber lines carry more than data - they carry opportunity, equity, and pride.

"A history never ends," the company reflects. "It merely pauses to note what was done." and with each pause, Bloomingdale is already looking ahead - to the next mile, the next family, the next story waiting to be connected.

After more than a century of connecting communities across Southwest Michigan, Bloomingdale Communications is preparing to bring its trusted fiber broadband service to a new frontier: Barry County.

Beginning in Spring 2026, the company will launch its latest expansion project in rural Middleville, aiming to serve nearly 750 locations with high-speed fiber internet. The initiative is backed by a USDA-RUS ReConnect 5 grant/loan, continuing Bloomingdale's legacy of leveraging federal partnerships to bridge the digital divide.

"This isn't just about fiber - it's about opportunity," said Assistant General Manager Janeen Horton. "We're proud to bring our values, our service, and our commitment to community into Barry County. Middleville deserves the same level of care and connectivity we've delivered for generations."

The Middleville buildout marks the latest milestone in Bloomingdale's long-standing mission to empower rural Michigan. From the Van Buren Fiber Ring to ReConnect deployments in Allegan and Van Buren counties, the company has consistently delivered projects on time, under budget, and with a deep sense of local pride.

Residents and businesses in Middleville can expect more than just fast internet - they'll gain a partner who understands the rhythms of rural life and the importance of reliable service. With this expansion, Bloomingdale Communications continues to prove that progress and tradition can go hand in hand.

Commissioners urge legislature and governor to oppose House revenue sharing cuts

By Paul Garrod
Staff Writer
news4garrod@gmail.com

Editor's Note: Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and lawmakers from both parties spent Monday, Sept. 29, and were expected to continue Tuesday, Sept. 30, finalizing a 2026 budget deal. Tuesday, Sept. 30 is the last day of the 2025 fiscal year.

According to published reports, if the House and Senate don't approve identical versions of the 2026 budget by midnight on Sept. 30, a partial state government shutdown will result. If that occurs, it would be the first time in Michigan history that both the state and federal governments will be shut down.Talks were ongoing in Washington, D.C.

PAW PAW - Van Buren County Commissioners went on record Tuesday, Sept. 23, strongly urging the Michigan Legislature and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer to reject the House revenue sharing cuts and support the Senate's proposal to increase county revenue sharing and provide flexible funding for public safety needs.

Counties are mandated by the State of Michigan to provide essential public services including courts, jails, elections, public health, public safety and human services. Unlike cities, villages and townships, counties do not receive constitutionally guaranteed revenue sharing and instead rely solely on statutory revenue sharing, leaving counties uniquely vulnerable to annual state budget decisions.

The House of Representatives' version of the Fiscal Year 2026 state budget proposes a $34.9 million reduction in county statutory revenue sharing, wiping out the long-overdue progress made in FY 25 to restore revenue sharing to sustainable levels.

The House plan, if enacted, would leave counties with just over $256 million in statutory revenue sharing statewide, while constitutional revenue sharing for cities, villages and townships (CVTs) is set to reach $1.1 billion, and when combined with statutory revenue sharing, CVTs would get $1.4 billion.

The House plan shifts $40 million into restricted sheriff funding with strings attached, requiring counties to maintain higher law enforcement funding levels, even as flexible revenue sharing is reduced, thereby further straining already-limited general funds.

Public safety dollars directed exclusively at sheriffs are not equivalent to revenue sharing, since they cannot be used to support the wide range of mandated services counties must provide.

The Senate budget proposal provides just over $320 million in county statutory revenue sharing, an increase of $29.1 million over FY 25, and includes $60 million for public safety that can be allocated at the discretion of county boards of commissioners rather than bypassing them.

Commissioners said the Senate approach respects county governance, strengthens general fund flexibility, and better equips counties to meet their broad statutory responsibilities.

Commissioners approved a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with Michigan State University (MSU) to define the scope of services and the county's funding contribution toward the delivery of MSU Extension programming within the county.

The proposed Memorandum of Agreement for the 2025–2026 fiscal year includes the following cost structure, as approved in the MSU Extension 2025-26 County General Fund Budget:

- Base Assessment: $72,062
- 50% Additional 4-H Educator: $37,251
- 35% Additional Agronomy Educator and 50% Consumer
- Horticulture/Veterans Liaison: $103,217
- Total Memorandum of Agreement: $212,800.

Michigan State University (MSU) Extension provides educational and support services to Van Buren County residents in areas such as agriculture, 4-H youth development, horticulture, and veteran outreach.

Commissioners approved the FY 2025–2026 annual agreement renewal with the Domestic Violence Coalition.

The Domestic Violence Coalition (DVC) provides critical services to victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault throughout Van Buren County, including emergency shelter, advocacy, and support services.

Van Buren County has historically maintained an annual agreement with the Domestic Violence Coalition to support the continuation of these vital services for county residents.

Domestic Violence Coalition represents a continuation of this long-standing partnership, with $25,000 allocated in the county budget for services to be rendered under the agreement. The $25,000 payment is scheduled to be disbursed to the Domestic Violence Coalition on or about Nov. 1.

Commissioners adopted the FY 2025–2026 Resource Recovery annual agreement renewal with the Van Buren Conservation District.

The Van Buren Conservation District provides critical environmental services to Van Buren County residents through its Resource Recovery Program, including solid waste diversion, recycling education, and hazardous waste collection.

Van Buren County has historically entered into an annual agreement with the Van Buren Conservation District to support Resource Recovery efforts countywide. The FY 2025–2026 annual agreement renewal continues this long-standing partnership and includes a budgeted amount of $100,000 for services rendered under the agreement.

The $100,000 payment was scheduled to be disbursed to the Van Buren Conservation District on or about Oct. 1.

Commissioners approved the DHS-2091 form associated with the FY 2026 Child Care Fund Annual Plan and Budget for submission to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

The Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Child Care Fund provides state reimbursement to counties for approved juvenile justice and child welfare services as outlined in the Annual Plan and Budget.

Van Buren County's Annual Plan and Budget for FY 2026 includes in-home care components such as the Juvenile Probation Department and associated evidence-based programs including, but not limited to, Multisystemic Therapy, Parenting with Love and Limits, and New Outlook, which are reimbursed at a 75 percent rate.

The plan also includes out-of-home care components such as detention and residential placements, which are reimbursed at a 50 percent rate.

The FY 2026 Annual Plan and Budget received formal approval from the MDHHS Child Care Fund Monitoring Unit, and submission of the DHS-2091 form is now required to finalize participation and activate the county's reimbursement eligibility for the fiscal year.

Revenues received under the Child Care Fund are directly based on actual, eligible expenditures incurred by the county as detailed in the approved Annual Plan and Budget.

Van Buren County Commissioners approved the nominations of Judy Janssen of the Republican Party and Michael Seymour of the Democratic Party, to serve a four-year term on the Van Buren County Board of Canvassers, expiring Oct. 31, 2029.

Blue Star Mothers plan "Operation Holiday Cheer"!

PAW PAW - The Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) of Southwest Michigan Chapter 179 is currently seeking the community's help in supporting the troops and spreading holiday cheer to the deployed men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The group will host the 19th annual Support the Troops "Operation Holiday Cheer" on Saturday, Nov. 8. Packing will be held at the Paw Paw Lions Club, 59050 County Road 665, Paw Paw.

Last year, with the help of many from the community, a total of 102 boxes were mailed out. Each box was filled with games, Christmas stocking, letters and cards of support and gallon-sized Ziploc bags of food/snack items and hygiene items. The boxes were shipped at a cost of approximately $2,024.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., (BSMA) is a group of local area moms whose children are serving or have served in the United States military. BSMA also has associate members who support the BSMA mission. BSMA is a non-profit 501(c) 3 service organization supporting America's service members, veterans, their families and each other.

The Southwest Michigan Chapter 179 of BSMA started in November 2006 in memory of Sgt. Gabriel G. De Roo who gave his life in service to his country on Aug. 20, 2006. The chapter's goal is to offer love, support, friendship and understanding to all Blue Star and Gold Star families and their service member(s).

Those interested in helping with the event can do so by:

- Contributing a monetary donation to help cover the cost of shipping. Monetary donations can be made payable to "Blue Star Mothers MI 179" and mailed to P.O. Box 406, Paw Paw, MI 49079. The donation is tax deductible.
- Donating items on the Service Members Wish List. Drop boxes will be placed at the Bangor Simpson United Methodist Church, Gobles United Methodist Church, Lawton Evangelical Church, and Biggby Coffee in Mattawan and Paw Paw until Nov. 5. Those having items to be picked up may do so by calling Debbie Siwula at (269) 491-4685 or Linda Kotecki at (269) 767-0306 and leave a message.
- Writing letters of support to the service members• Making holiday cards for the service members.

The following items are needed for the care packages. Individually packaged items are best for shipping to our service members.

Beef Jerky, black socks – crew or tube, tuna, chicken or salmon in a pouch, Chapstick, Dinty Moore beef stew microwavable cups – small baby powder, foot powder, individual peanut butter/Jiff to Go packs, Kleenex singles, individual jelly or honey packets, travel size toothpaste, individual packets of condiments, eye drops, saline, Pop tarts, disposable razors, individual boxes of cookies (Oreos), Okeef's working hand cream small container, individual boxes of cereal, cough drops, small containers of Pringles, Tylenol/Advil, microwave popcorn, Band aids, nuts/trail mix/ dried fruit (single servings), baby wipes, Twizzlers, feminine products/ tampons, single-serve drink mixes (Crystal Light/ coffee), hot chocolate (single serving packets), wash cloths, gum, Moleskin – covers blisters, electrolyte candies, freezer zip lock bags, hard candy – no chocolate, greeting cards, colored pencils, card games (Uno, etc.), adult coloring books, prayer squares, word searches/activity books.

No glass containers, no aerosol, and no alcoholic items, as they cannot be shipped.

The Blue Star Mothers of Southwest Michigan Chapter 179 accepts monetary donations throughout the year to assist in their mission of supporting America's service members, veterans, and their families. Monetary donations may be made payable to: "Blue Star Moms 179" and mailed to P.O. Box 406, Paw Paw, MI, 49079. The donation is tax deductible.

For more information on Blue Star Mothers, go to: www.bluestarmothers.org or visit the Blue Star Mothers of Southwest Michigan Chapter 179 Facebook page.

Contestants sought for pageant

Organizers are looking for a new 2026 Miss and Mr. Paw Paw and their court. They are looking for positive energy and a passion for community spirit! No pageant experience necessary-just bring your best self! Contact Amanda Seals, Misspawpaw25@gmail.com.

Life jackets gone, signals end of summer season

Emptied life jacket stands on South Haven's beaches offer a visual end to the summer season.

Part of the city's beach safety program, the loaner life jackets are sponsored by Bronson Hospital South Haven Safe Kids. The jackets are placed at all city beaches throughout the summer months.

Photo by Tom Renner

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2ND FRONT PAGE

Tour of art studios set for this weekend

By James Windell

Early October may be too early for a tour of autumn leaves along Blue Star Highway between South Haven and Fennville. However, it will be perfect for a tour of artist's studios along the route.

On Saturday, October 4 and Sunday, October 5, 2025, you can travel the scenic Blue Star Highway for the 36th Annual Blue Coast Artists Fall Tour. By traveling north on Blue Star Highway, you can visit 10 galleries and talk to artists while watching them ply their craft.

A good starting spot is Blue Star Art Collective in South Haven says gallery owner Megan Bennett.

"I've got four artists coming to the gallery on Saturday and four on Sunday," Bennett says. "It's a great opportunity to see the artists work and talk to them about their art."

On Saturday, the four artists who will be working and talking to patrons will be Lou Wolf Valance, a Rockford, Michigan painter; Andrea Cheeseman, who will be showing her late mother's (Diane Lynne Cheeseman) work; Deena Kachadoorian, a Detroit jeweler; and Georgia Norton, a welder and sculptor.

The next day, Sunday, Bennett will feature Edward Hoagland, who does pen, ink and watercolor drawings; Joan Bonnette, who paints in watercolors; Ellie Dietrich, a ceramics artist; and Deena Kachadoorian, Detroit jeweler.

Bennett says that there will be food trucks at her gallery, and she points out that most, if not all, of the galleries on the tour will be offering food and refreshments. "Since I have the space," Bennett adds, "not only will the food trucks be outside the gallery, but some of the artists will be doing demonstrations outside as well."

Bennett's Blue Star Art Collective is located at 338 North Blue Star Highway, South Haven. Her hours on October 4 and 5 will be 10:00 am to 6:00 pm both days.

Across the street from Blue Star Art Collective is Blue Star Pottery, featuring the work of Mark Williams, who creates functional stoneware pottery. His studio is located at 337 Blue Star Highway.

Other participating artists include Dawn Soltysiak, whose pottery can be seen at her Khnemu Studio, 6322 113thg Ave. in Fennville. Also in Fennville is the studio of painter and sculptor Armando Pederoso. His Blue Vieira Studio and Gallery is located at 6787 116th Ave., Fennville.

Fennville is also home to the last six artists on the Blue Coast Artists Fall Tour. Barb Hogarth shows her multimedia work at the Blue Star Studio of Wood & Glass at 1684 Blue Star Highway, Fennville. Tyler Voorhees displays his mixed media paintings at his gallery at 1473 Lakeshore Drive, Fennville.

Curt Bailey is an artist and furniture designer who shows his creations at his gallery at 1638 Blue Star Highway, Fennville. Metal sculpture artist Jeffrey Fio shows his steel and aluminum landscape sculpture at 2976 Peach Creek Court, Fennville. Hand-turned wood art bowls, vases and vessels can be found at Brian Newton's studio at 2895 63rd Street, Fennville. And the last stop on the tour is at Fernwood 1891, 120 E. Main Street, Fennville, where Dawn Soltysiak displays the paintings, arts and crafts of many artists.

Bennett is enthusiastic about this year's Artists Tour: "I think the Artists Tour is a great event to bring the community together to showcase the great artists we have locally."

For a list of the studios and artists and a printable map of the tour, go to BlueCoastArtists.com

Edward Hoagland

Deena Kachadoorian

Lou Wolf Valance

THANK YOU, SOUTH HAVEN CITY COUNCIL!

Dear Members of South Haven City Council:

Thank you for listening to the residents of the W.O.W. (Woodman, Oak, and Willow) neighborhood and rejecting the proposed five-year Master Plan draft on September 15, 2025.

Your decision to return the draft-plan to the Planning Commission for revisions after hearing our concerns protects the residential character of our North Side community and affirms your commitment to representing many of our town's north side neighborhood residents.

We are deeply grateful for your attentiveness to our neighborhood's concerns.

Many residents have invested in South Haven properties over the years, drawn to the area's strictly residential zoning south of Dyckman Avenue. Your rejection of the plan ensures this vision endures.

Our neighborhood, 20+ residences surrounding 89 North Shore, unanimously opposes a commercial future for this site. A new commercial business, unlike the current business's limited hours, will disrupt our peaceful enclave. The 89 North Shore owners can always operate as a bakery until they choose otherwise, then transition to residential use per current zoning.

The Planning Commission overlooked our neighborhood's collective concerns, favoring the owner of the 89 North shore parcel. That is perplexing since we own and live here. The owners of that parcel do not live here. On September 19, 2025, our 20+ homes contributed $254,539.57 in summer property taxes, compared to 89 North Shore's $2,675.59.

We invest heavily in our tranquil lifestyle, and your decision honors that.

Your action corrects this imbalance.

We rely on you, our elected representatives, to prioritize our community's broader neighborhood interests. By rejecting the commercial designation for 89 North Shore, you've safeguarded our property values and preserved our residential haven.

Thank you for your integrity.

We look forward to working with the Planning Commission on a revised Master Plan that reflects our community's neighborhood vision.

Sincerely,

The '20' Woodman, Oak, Willow, Neighborhood Residents

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SHAES invites families to fire prevention fun fair

By James Windell

Fire Prevention Week is coming up and the South Haven Area Emergency Services (SHAES) will be putting on its annual Fire Prevention Fun Fair on October 9, 2025.

"It's a big event for us," says Shawn Smith, Training Officer for SHAES. "Our Fun Fair is a time that kids can come to the station and interact with firemen."

However, the National Fire Prevention Week campaign, held between October 5 and 11 this year, has a serious theme. The theme for 2025 is "Charge into Fire Safety: Lithium-Ion Batteries in Your Home," and was chosen to help educate everyone about using these batteries safely. The national campaign stresses how important it is to buy, charge, and recycle safely when it comes to lithium-ion batteries.

SHAES emphasizes that many home electronics, from phones and laptops to power tools and toys, use lithium-ion batteries that can overheat and catch fire if damaged or improperly used.

As part of this year's campaign, firefighters will visit schools to talk with students about fire safety, and the department will host its annual Fire Prevention Fun Fair on October 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the firehouse on Blue Star Highway. The event will feature games, food,

activities for the kids, and a live burn demonstration of a battery showing how quickly a fire can spread.

"We have a whole bunch of kid's activities scheduled," says Smith. "There will be fun games, races, and a physical agility competition that kids can do among themselves." In addition, Smith says, there will be a little house which children can spray with a fire hose.

"We will also put on a couple of demonstrations," Smith says, "and towards the end of the evening we will do a burn demonstration where we light a room on fire so everyone can see how it grows and builds. This is to emphasize how fast someone needs to be out as well as the importance of smoke detectors."

In addition to games and demonstrations, SHAES will be handing out free hotdogs, chips and cookies – sponsored by Barden's Farm Market.

The Fire Prevention Fun Fair takes place on Thursday, October 9 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at SHAES located at 90 Blue Star Highway, South Haven. For more information, visit the SHAES website at www.shaes.org.

Friends and family gather to celebrate Aunt Bessie's 100 years

By James Windell

When you live to be 100 years old, you deserve a special party.

After turning 100 on September 14, 2025, Bessie Maxine Boyd was honored with a once-in-a-century fete by her family and friends on Saturday, September 27, 2025.

In a tightly choreographed birthday party in a newly renovated room in Lakeside Entertainment, Bessie Boyd, who has lived in South Haven since she was a young adult, was treated to a party befitting a Queen – or as she referred to herself on this day – as "Miss America."

With relatives coming from as far away as Dallas, Texas, "Aunt Bessie" – as many who attended addressed her – was given plaques and proclamations, special prayers, relevant scripture readings, and musical tributes, all to commemorate a life well lived – and a woman well loved.

A proclamation from Governor Gretchen Whitmer and presented by Joey Andrews, State Representative from the 38th House District, highlighted aspects of her life beginning with her birth on September 14, 1925 in Hallsville, Texas. Reading the special tribute from the Governor, Andrews said that in 1952 she became one of the first three African Americans to go to work for the G.C. Murphy Company in South Haven. She would stay there until she retired – earning a gold watch and a trip to company headquarters in Pennsylvania.

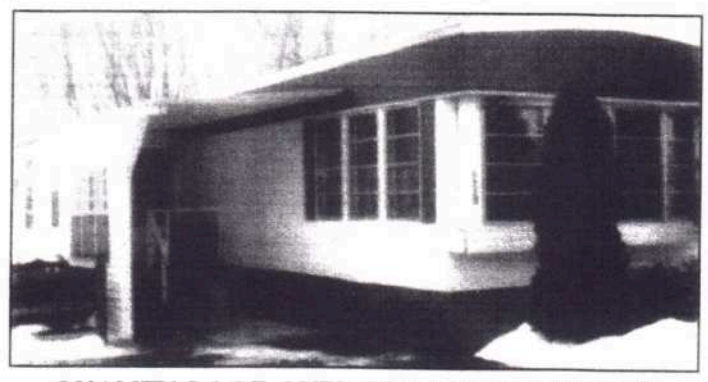
Gail Patterson-Gladney, a Van Buren County Commissioner, also presented Boyd with a proclamation. In this proclamation it was noted that "Mother Bessie" in 1947 joined the Emmanuel Baptist Church where she served faithfully as a church leader and Sunday School teacher, mentoring youth and offering guidance to countless others.

Following that was the proclamation from South Haven Mayor Annie Brown. Rather than read the entire proclamation, which reiterated many aspects of her life that was part of the other proclamations, Mayor Brown, referring to her as "A matriarch and a South Haven power woman," continued on to point out that Boyd "did so many courageous things in her life. Stepping up as a leader in her church and spreading the gospel. She had the courage to break the racial barrier and [become] a role model for so many other women. She is a beloved and cherished member of our community."

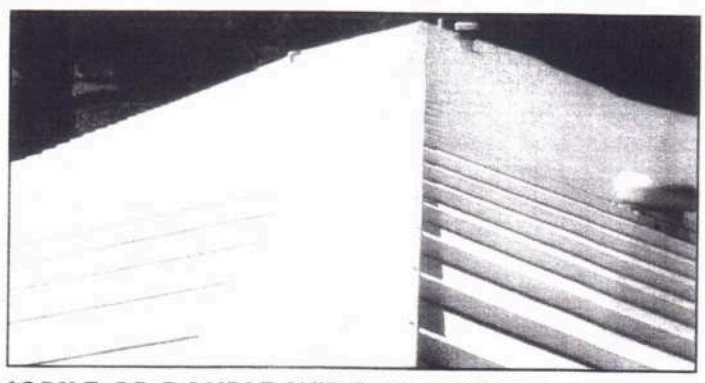
After the excitement of the party, as things calmed down for Aunt Bessie, she had an opportunity to reflect on the party which brought together more than 65 members of her extended family and community friends.

"All those people and my relatives!," Bessie exclaimed. "To see that many people cared about me and came out was really wonderful."

A-1 MOBILE ROOF-OVER SYSTEMS INC.



QUALITY ROOF-OVER FOR MOBILE HOMES



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Two spooky events at South Haven Library

By James Windell

Halloween comes at the end of October, but you don't have to wait until then to get your dose of spooky and creepy goings on.

The South Haven Memorial Library is sponsoring two events that will be sure to delight both kids and adults.

On Thursday, October 8, 2025, you can revel in the paranormal escapades of Forgotten Souls, a spook-tacular Michigan team hunting down ghosts and sharing spine-tingling tales of their paranormal investigations.

"Forgotten Souls is a paranormal investigating group that we've had here twice before," reports Jen LaRowe, Youth Librarian at the South Haven Memorial Library. "Our patrons really enjoy their presentations because they talk about what they've found in Michigan."

LaRowe says that while some libraries have had Forgotten Souls do investigations at their library, South Haven Memorial Library has not opted to do that – at least not yet. She hints that that could be too scary for some of the staff.

The Forgotten Souls presentation will begin at 6:00 pm on October 8 and it is a free event. In their presentation, the paranormal team will share what they've captured on their high-tech gear for discovering creepy evidence.

Somewhat less spooky will be the annual Halloween party for children and families on October 18, 2025.

"We throw this party every year for kids," says LaRowe. "We feature games and snacks, and the South Haven Center for the Arts will be here to offer an art project for children."

Children and teens are encouraged to dress up in a costume and enter the costume contest and be part of the parade that takes place at noon.

In addition, LaRowe adds, Bronson Healthcare will be giving out information and treats for families.

"It's a really fun thing we do every year that everyone looks forward to," says LaRowe.

Like all South Haven Memorial Library events, the Halloween Party is free and participants do not need to have a library card to enjoy the fun.

South Haven Memorial Library is located at 314 Broadway, South Haven. The Forgotten Souls presentation is on October 8 starting at 6:00 pm. The Halloween Party is on Saturday, October 18 from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

For more information, go to the library's website at www.shmlibrary.org

Trinity Lutheran School holds Bike-a-Thon

On Friday, Sept. 26, Trinity Lutheran School, Paw Paw, celebrated its fifth annual All School Bike-a-Thon. Participants included Early Childhood students through fifth grade. According to Trinity Lutheran School Principal Jody Tuls, the event was a fundraiser for Trinity's School Scholarship fund.

Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

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VIEWPOINT

Elected leaders- Do the right thing, eliminate earmarks

MIKE'S MUSINGS

MIKE WILCOX
PUBLISHER

One of my often rants is the use of earmarks or pork barrel, as we used to call them, projects sneaked into the federal or state budget at the last minute, to benefit a particular constituency. It happens every year as we get down to the wire on approving a budget. This year will not be an exception.

Lawmakers at the state and federal level have until midnight Sept. 30 to avert a partial government shutdown. But we've all heard this before and partial government shutdowns are not unusual. Eventually both sides of the aisle will come to terms. They just need to negotiate a few more earmarks- say it isn't so.

Sometimes earmarks can be as small as $100k going to a particular legislator's pet interest. Sometimes they are much greater such as the $25 million that was allocated a couple of years ago for the Clare Health Park that is now under state investigation. Almost always the earmarks are granted without competing bids and very little oversight.

At the federal level, earmarks were banned for a decade before resurfacing a few years ago under new transparency rules. In Michigan, earmarks have ballooned in recent budgets, sometimes running into hundreds of millions of dollars. We are told this money helps communities. But the truth is, earmarks distort priorities, weaken accountability, and undermine trust in government.

The danger is not that every earmarked project is useless. Some clearly serve a public purpose: a small-town water system, a needed bridge, or a community center. The danger is that earmarks are chosen based on political clout rather than merit. When public dollars are steered toward the well-connected instead of the most pressing needs, citizens begin to suspect government works for insiders, not taxpayers.

Michigan lawmakers have tried to polish the process. The House now requires earmark requests to be filed earlier in the year. Legislators must provide more detail about who benefits and how the money will be used. Grants to for-profit companies are banned. These are worthwhile steps, but they don't solve the core problem: earmarks are inherently political.

No matter how transparent the process is, earmarks reward influence. They favor lawmakers with seniority or connections. They elevate private lobbying over open competition. And they make budgeting less about the greatest public need and more about cutting deals behind closed doors.

Michigan's constitution already provides a check: any "local or private" appropriation is supposed to require a two-thirds supermajority vote in both chambers. But lawmakers have skirted this rule by burying earmarks inside massive omnibus budget bills, passing them with a simple majority. This practice not only violates the spirit of the constitution, it erodes public confidence in the fairness of our laws. If legislators want to fund a local or private project, they should have the courage to secure the votes honestly.

If Michigan and Washington truly want to end the earmark game, changes are essential.

First, enforce constitutional and statutory safeguards. In Michigan, that means requiring a supermajority for local or private spending and forbidding earmarks from being hidden in giant budget packages. At the federal level, Congress should consider stronger thresholds — even separate votes — for any earmark.

Second, replace earmarks with competitive review. Infrastructure, education, and community programs should be funded through open application processes, judged by clear criteria. That way, projects succeed based on merit, not muscle.

Some argue that earmarks grease the wheels of democracy, giving legislators a reason to compromise on big spending bills. That may be true, but it's a poor excuse for waste and favoritism. Democracy is not strengthened by trading favors. It is strengthened by open debate, honest budgeting, and public trust.

Earmarks aren't just about money. They're about integrity. Every time a lawmaker sneaks a project into the budget, voters lose a little more faith that government serves the people equally. Until we end the earmark culture both Lansing and Washington will keep writing checks that weaken our budgets and our democracy.

I've written this a dozen times, but no one is listening. I implore our leaders to end earmarks now. The time has come to stop playing games with the public's pocketbook.

County Sheriff's Deputy and retired K-9 receive Hope Award in Washington, D.C.

Van Buren County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Calhoun and Kuno (K-9 partner now retired) were recently honored in Washington, D.C. by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC). They were awarded the prestigious Hope Award at their annual awards ceremony.

Kuno, handled and trained by Deputy Calhoun was credited with five successful saves/finds of missing children during his career here prior to retirement. "Deputy Calhoun was able to take his family to be part of the experience as well. NCMEC was gracious enough to cover all the expenses for the whole thing. A huge congratulations to Deputy Eric Calhoun and Kuno, well earned, well deserved," said Van Buren County Sheriff Daniel Abbott.

Detective Miriam Sipes recently competed 40 hours of specialized training at the Sexual Assault Investigation Academy in Ohio. The intense program covered a range of critical topics, including victimology, sexual assault investigations, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) exams, and the essential role that medical providers play in supporting law enforcement. The training emphasized the importance of the initial response, victim care, crime scene preservation, and evidence collection. Detective Sipes learned about techniques for suspect development, the use of DNA in sexual assault cases, and reviewed multiple real-life case studies used to reinforce investigative strategies.

Detectives were actively looking for a 55-year-old Decatur man for questioning for an ongoing investigation. A Michigan State Police (MSP) detective observed the suspect driving and followed him into the courthouse. "The detective contacted our detective, and contact was made there at the courthouse by both agencies' detectives. It was found he went there to sign paperwork to officially be released off parole supervision. It was found during the interview and investigation that he didn't have a valid driver's license, had bad licenses plates, and had no insurance for the vehicle," said Sheriff Abbott. Due to multiple traffic violations and his parole status continued, he was taken into custody. A subsequent search of his vehicle resulted in the discovery of approximately two grams of methamphetamine. He was lodged for the incident.

"Detective Chris Orr who runs our Forensic Unit gave a presentation at Mattawan High School to juniors and seniors. The presentation focused on social media, electronic safety, digital platforms, and how to protect their personal information online. Detective Orr did a great job providing insight into the risks associated with online activity and the importance of making informed safe choices online in today's digital world," said Sheriff Abbott.

"I was able to meet with several Amish families in the Bloomingdale area this past week to go over ideas together relating to buggy crashes. Members of the Van Buren County Road Commission and Reserve Sgt. Walt Grech were also able to be there and give ideas as well. It was a very productive meeting with everyone involved with a lot of information being presented," said Sheriff Abbott.

Deputies handled a road rage incident in Geneva Township. The caller advised the suspect vehicle crashed and was in a ditch. Deputies located the vehicle and suspect in the area it was described as at. The investigation found the driver, from Allegan County, was intoxicated and had a firearm in his vehicle. The suspect was lodged for the incident and now faces multiple charges.

Uniform Response handled a single vehicle crash in Pine Grove Township. "The investigation found that the single occupant driver from Calhoun County straightened out a curve, left the roadway, hit a tree and large rock. The driver succumbed to the injuries, losing his life. The accident remains under investigation," said Sheriff Abbott.

Uniform Response handled a Single Vehicle Crash in Hamilton Township. The driver advised Deputies that he swerved to miss an opossum, lost control, and crashed. Alcohol is believed to be a factor, and once the blood results come back, an arrest warrant will be issued. The driver was hospitalized due to injuries.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Letter writer is not superior

Dear Editor,

In response to "Sticks and Stones" from Jack Bley in the 9/25/25 edition. Mr. Bley should take a strong hard look at himself as he spouts regularly about how Christian and superior he is to others.

His very first two sentences, "Charlie Kirk was me, only WAY better: Christian, conservative, patriot, white guy." Now I have no issue with anyone being Christian (although it is not a superior religion above others) or conservative. But to state publicly you are "White" and insinuate that it makes you superior to others?? Really Mr. Bley?? Maybe open that bible and read it again. No race is a superior to others and if you cannot see your blatant racism you are a fool! The Jesus I believe in would not be happy with you sir, how about you humble yourself a bit, get with the times and quit writing your nonsense and judging everyone who does not look like, act like or agree with you. To me you are the EXACT OPPOSITE of a true Christian.

Anna Lloyd
Gobles, MI

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Van Buren County Conservation District unveils new trail signs

VAN BUREN COUNTY - The Van Buren Conservation District (VBCD) has unveiled a new series of interpretive signs along the Van Buren State Trail. These signs invite folks to explore the area's unique landscape and history. Seven educational signs now dot the trail. They connect users with local agriculture, natural resources, and cultural heritage.

The Trail

The Van Buren State Trail spans 14 scenic miles between Hartford and South Haven, following the historic route of a former railroad. The trail meanders through some of Southwest Michigan's most beautiful and diverse landscapes, including wetlands, woodlands, and working farmland - all inland from Lake Michigan.

In South Haven, two paved miles offer an accessible route for walking and biking. The remaining 12 miles of natural surface trail are perfect for hiking, horseback riding, and mountain biking. A connecting spur trail even leads directly to Van Buren State Park.

The trail is truly a year-round destination for outdoor recreation, exploration, and learning.

Trail Signs

With the addition of the seven new signs, the Van Buren State Trail now offers more than natural beauty and recreation. It provides a window into the region's deep-rooted stories. Each sign was thoughtfully created with partners to highlight local history, nature, and culture. "We really wanted to turn the trail into an educational experience for all ages," said Jacob Diljak, VBCD Outreach Coordinator Signs, in English and Spanish, cover many topics. Topics include the history of the trail and Covert, the forests and water it crosses, and the farming heritage of the region.

One sign, created in partnership with the Ėthë Bodwéwadmimwat of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, includes Potawatomi language, telling the history and enduring presence of Potawatomi peoples in the region. Together, these signs help connect trail users with the land, its stewards, and its layered past and present.

A Community of Support Funding was generously provided by the Keep Michigan Beautiful, Inc. Shirley Richardson Mini-Grant Program, the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail, and the VBCD Operations Millage. In 2016, voters approved the VBCD Operations Millage to support local conservation. These funding sources support the partners' shared goals of community beautification and natural resource stewardship.

Special thanks goes to volunteers who provided their time and expertise to make this project a reality. Thank you Michael Reshman, Tim Kling, Phil Polomcak, and Jake Will.

Many organizations came together to contribute to this project. Thank you to the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and the Ėthë Bodwéwadmimwat, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Forest Association, Covert Township and the Covert Historical Museum, Michigan Railroad History, and the Two Rivers Coalition.

Get Involved

From improving the land to protecting water, the VBCD offers a variety of programs and opportunities to get involved.

Learn more about the VBCD and their work - visit the VBCD at: www.VanBurenCD.org, call (269) 657-4030 ext.5 and find them on Facebook and Instagram.

VBISD and State Department of Ed. host Grow Your Own visit

PAW PAW - Van Buren Intermediate School District (VBISD) Instructional Services partnered with the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) to host a Grow Your Own (GYO) Technical Assistance Visit on Monday, Sept. 22.

The meeting brought together education leaders and partners to review the progress of the GYO initiative, celebrate successes, and explore strategies for sustaining and strengthening the program in the years ahead.

The session focused on several key areas including fiscal planning, enrollment and programming, internships, and long-term sustainability. Participants reflected on the successes of the program, discussed challenges, and worked together to identify solutions that will continue to support the mission of addressing teacher shortages in rural districts in Van Buren County.

The GYO grant has played a critical role in helping VBISD and its local partners build a pipeline of educators from within the community. By providing financial and educational support, the program reduces barriers for individuals pursuing careers in education while addressing local staffing needs. VBISD currently supports nearly 350 Grow Your Own candidates who represent a wide range of ages. This demonstrates that it is never too early or too late to pursue a teaching career.

"This program not only helps us address the teacher shortage but also empowers individuals who may not have otherwise had the opportunity to pursue higher education and a career in teaching," according to VBISD Superintendent, Dave Manson.

Meeting discussions also emphasized the importance of supporting new teachers beyond their coursework and internships to ensure they continue to thrive after being hired into the classroom.

Attendees highlighted the role of continued mentorship, professional development, and district-level support in sustaining teacher success.

Through the GYO initiative, VBISD has been able to strengthen local schools by investing in people who are deeply connected to the community. With 350 candidates currently engaged, the future of education in Van Buren County is being shaped from within.

Attendees included leadership from VBISD such as Superintendent Dave Manson, Director of Instructional Services Melissa Corona, and Director of Finance and Operations Rebecca DePas.

The Michigan Department of Education was represented by Kelli Brozanski, Director of the Office of Educator Excellence, Grow Your Own Consultant Jenni Dickens, and Consultant Gina Garner from the Educator Preparation unit. VBISD Grow Your Own Success Navigators Geanice Miller and Jen Bloomfield also participated, along with higher education partners Meredith Dodson, Dean for Graduate, Adult, and Professional Studies at UO, and Alicia Vorholt, GYO Program Manager at Western Michigan University. District-level representation included Eric Meloche of Gobles Public Schools. The group also heard directly from Brittany Millan, a current Grow Your Own candidate.

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Paw Paw football team blanks Plainwell

Coach Dennis Strey's Paw Paw football team has won two straight.

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW — Paw Paw traveled to Plainwell and won 39-0 on Friday.

It was a Big day from Ben Miller as he set the Paw Paw All Time Rushing record with 3,052 yards after the game. Friday, Miller rushed for 289 yards on 16 carries for 5 TDs and sat the fourth quarter, Miller also had 2 solo tackles and an assisted tackle on the night. Three of the rushing touchdowns were big plays, at 49 yards, 74 yards, and 67 yards.

Defense tackle stats:

JJ Varney 5 solo 2 assisted.

Carter Buhl 3 solo 7 assisted/

Silas Penning 4 solo 3 assisted and 1 Forced Fumble.

Ben Newell 2 solo 5 assisted and 3 TFLs.

Austin Auckerman 4 solo 2 assisted and 1 TFL/

Brennan Kennedy 7 Solo 1 assisted.

Elias Sonnenburg 1 assisted, 1 INT, and 1 Pass Deflected

Paw Paw has won two straight games and is 2-3. Paw Paw is home on Oct 3 with Sturgis and on Oct. 10 with Otsego.

Gobles girls third in jamboree

The 2025 Gobles cross country teams

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — It was a busy week for the Gobles Cross Country teams as they travelled to Parchment Wednesday for the SAC Jamboree No. 2 and then on Saturday they raced at Otsego at the Bulldog Invitational.

On Saturday, after their races about half of the Varsity teams hustled up to Jenison for a Band Competition. "Whether on the course or on the field these Tigers bring their best," coach Marc Kline said.

SAC Jamboree

At the Jamboree the girls were third in the league with a good showing closing the gap on the number 1 and 2 teams. Taylor Cooley set a PR and has been improving steadily after coming back from an early season injury. The boys finished sixth in the league moving up one place from seventh at the first Jamboree and look to move up in the SAC Championship Meet on Oct. 9.

Bulldog Invitational

On Saturday the Tigers competed in the D2 races and the girls finished 13th of the 25 teams and the boys were 19th of the 24 teams. "Both teams had some amazing performances and are rounding into good form for the final meets of the season," Kline said/

The girls are currently ranked in the top 5 in division 4. Saturday, there were some great races with Alyssa Sparks coming back strong after racing sick on Wednesday and ran 25:34.43, Taylor Cooley set a PR at 25:12.70, Addison Tomsic set a BIG Season Record (SR) with a 23:19.44, Madison Cooley came in at 22:17.13, Lauren Shaffer 20:55.34, Ava DeYoung set significant SR at 20:51.56 and Libby Smith crushed another barrier putting her in the conversation for best in the state and current leader in Division 4 with a PR of 17:46.78.

The boys competed with high quality as well and set a number of PRs. As they keep working they have an opportunity to qualify for the state meet and are currently ranked 16th in the state for Division 4. As they keep improving throughout the season, who knows what they could achieve.

Saturday at Otsego Jose Boger set an SR with a time of 21:58.61, Easton Piper ran 21:31.09, Titus Sager set a PR at 20:51.40, Cole Cannon an SR at 19:24.15, David Sager 19:09.25, Jaxon Bunce 18:55.88, Levi Collins 18:55.84, Cole Rigel set a PR at 18:00.36, and Fletcher Amos improved his PR to 17:49.95.

Gobles football team falls

Quarterback Devin Doorlag contributed through the air for Grand Rapids Sacred Heart

By John Raffel
Correspondent

GOBLES — The Gobles Tigers battled hard on Friday night but came up short in a 33–14 loss to Grand Rapids Sacred Heart.

"Gobles leaned on their running game, piling up 226 rushing yards on 60 attempts," coach Greg Eichler said. " Senior running back Nathan Ray carried the load with 32 rushes for 162 yards and two touchdowns, breaking 15 tackles and racking up 110 yards after contact. Senior Aiden Beam added big-play sparks with 54 yards on just five carries.

"Quarterback Devin Doorlag contributed through the air, completing 5 of 12 passes for 106 yards, connecting with Brett Ivester (39 yards) and Hunter Piper (36 yards) on explosive gains. Despite moving the chains for 21 first downs, Gobles was undone by turnovers, losing two fumbles and finishing without a passing score."

Eichler pointed out that on defense, Ray and AJ Salinas led the Tigers with eight tackles apiece, while Salinas also notched three tackles for loss. Ivester added three stops behind the line, and Aiden Dukes chipped in six tackles with two for loss.

"Special teams performed well for the Tigers," Eichler said. "Doorlag punted twice for a 33.5-yard average along with recovering a huge onside kick to give the Tigers a chance to take the lead late in the game.

"Sacred Heart proved more efficient, averaging 7.0 yards per play compared to Gobles' 4.5. The Irish relied on a balanced attack, rushing for 248 yards while also converting three field goals. Their defense capitalized on Gobles' miscues, forcing two turnovers and keeping the Tigers out of the end zone in the second half."

With the loss, Gobles drops to 3-2, "but the team showed fight behind its power running game and physical defensive front," Eichler said. "The Tigers are confident as all of their goals are still in front of them, and they look forward to getting better in the second half of the season as they approach the playoffs."

Paw Paw golfers set for league tourney

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW —Paw Paw's girls golf team was set to play in the Wolverine Conference championships on Wednesday of this week.

Paw Paw played in the Walkover 8 tournament on Sept. 24 in Plainwell.

Plainwell was first at 190, followed by Otsego 192, Vicksburg 194, Sturgis 212, Paw Paw 213, Three Rivers 226, Edwardsburg 226 and Niles 228.

Scoring for Paw Paw were Laura Wilcox at 52, Addison McLeese 53, Lily Brausch 54, Maci Vandermeeden 54 and Sydney McNittt 55.

Paw Paw played in a quad on Sept. 23 at Comstock and won it with a 200. Hopkins had a 244, Michigan Lutheran 257 and Comstock 282.

Scorers for Paw Paw were Lily Brausch 47, Laura Wilcox 50, Sydney McNutt 51, Mayeli Paredes-Zavala 52, Maci Vandermeeden 58 and Addison McLeese 61.

Mattawan boys take seventh

By John Raffel
Correspondent

MATTAWAN — Mattawan cross country coach John Ablao was extremely happy over the weekend with what his team was able to accomplish at the Otsego Invitational.

Boys varsity was 7th out of 13 teams. Standouts- First five Mattawan boys- Owen Fisher- 3rd Place overall 15:25 PR, Marcel Stork 7th place overall 15:40 PR

Tanner Christensen- 55th- 17:03 PR, Trevor Nagra- 61st 17:20 PR, Brady Gildea- 69th 17:38

JV was seventh out of 11 teams- Led by Isaac Fletcher 19:04 PR, Ben Rowenkamp-Ambs 19:21, Gavin Robbins 19:23 SR, Liam Bisnett 19:35 PR, and Pacen Brown 19:35

Girls Varsity was 12th place overall.

First five Mattawan Finishers- Kate Barron 20:08 PR, Natalie Barron 20:52 SR, Claire Yakiwchuk 21:37 PR, Tana Drobeck 21:52 PR, and Julie Navratilova 23:50 PR.

Girls JV - Led by Livia Howard 23:50 SR, Josephine Torpeggard 24:42 PR,

Ava Garcia 24:47 PR, Brianna Bauler 25:43 PR, and Addalyn Roundhouse 27:44 PR

Next- Portage Invitational 10/4

South Haven too much for Parchment

By John Raffel

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven posted a 49-15 football win over Parchment on Friday.

Rushing for South Haven: Jacob Bosma 16/ 122 2 TD; Ryker Roland 6/ 93. 1/ TD; Quin Hayes 9/ 73 1// TD; Rylan Jenks 6/33. 1/TD; Dominic Guzman 5/33. 1/TD

Passing: Rylan Jenks. 4/9 57

Receiving: Grayson Knox 1/11 1/TD

Tackles: Dom Guzman 14; Ciro Haqq 11. Ryker Rowan and Grayson Knox 7.

South Haven is 2-3 overall and 1-1 in the Southwestern Athetic Conference.

"Offensively, we stuck to our game plan and were efficient. The defense provided us with an early stop to set the tone for the game. The Panthers put together a good drive and scored," South Haven coach Mark Eddy said. "There was a long pause due to an injury situation. We were able to stay focused and played a clean game with excellent effort. The special teams were sound and a great contributor to the team."

South Haven plays at Parchment on Friday.

Bangor competes in home soccer tournament

By John Raffel
Correspondent

On Saturday, the Bangor Vikings hosted their first boys' round robin tournament at Viking Stadium.

In their opening game against the Watervliet Panthers, the Vikings faced an early 3-0 deficit in the first half.

"However, they responded with a strong second-half performance, cutting into the lead with a spirited effort," coach Antonio Robles said. "Goals from Carlos Villalobos and Aziel Calderon, along with an assist from Emanuel Betancourt, helped narrow the gap, but the Vikings ultimately fell 5-3.

"In the second match, Bangor squared off against New Buffalo. The Vikings once again displayed resilience and fought hard throughout the game, but were unable to find the back of the net, losing 2-0."

The Vikings were set to travel to Hartford to take on the Huskies on Monday, Sept. 29 with a 5 p.m. kickoff.

Goalkeepers were Ismael Rodriguez, eight saves and Humberto Garcia, five saves.

The Vikings traveled to Bloomingdale last week in hopes of building momentum, but despite a strong effort, they fell to the Cardinals with a final score of 8-0.

Goalkeeper Humberto Garcia once again delivered a standout performance, recording nine crucial saves to keep the team competitive in the early stages.

With this result, the Vikings' record moves to 3-8-3 on the season.

Lawton overpowers Galesburg-Augusta

By John Raffel
Correspondent

LAWTON — Lawton's football team improved its record to 3-2 on Friday with a 62-24 win over Galesburg-Augusta.

Lawton led 15-0 after the first quarter 36-0 at halftime and 36-6 after the third quarter. Lawton had a 26-18 scoring advantage in the fourth quarter.

Wyatt Streeter had a 22-yard TD run for Lawton in the first quarter and Chase Triemstra booted the extra points.

Caiden Mitchell had a 43-yard run and the two-point conversion made it 15-0.

In the second quarter. Greyson Burros had touchdown runs of 10 and 15 yards for Lawton while Brady Quick had a 69-yard touchdown pass. Chase Triemstra booted the three extra points and it was 36-0.

Patrick Rock threw a 16-yard scoring pass in the third for Galesburg.

In the fourth for Lawton, Wyatt Streeter had a 12-yard TD run. Dillon Carlson had a 71-yard touchdown kickoff return. Tyler McCartney had a 43-yard scoring run. Brock Williamson later had a 92-yard touchdown run.

Lawton had a 490-348 lead in total yards.

Quick passed for 69 yards. Burrous rushed for 103 yads followed by Mitchell with 94 yards and Williamson with 92 yards.

Paw Paw tennis falls to Three Rivers

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — After a rainout before the 1st ball was struck the night before, Paw Paw played host to Three Rivers last week indoors at West Hills.

Paw Paw took the early lead with a decisive win by 1st Doubles Anderson Farnquist/ Isaac Geffre and never looked back. The Red Wolves rolled and took home victories in every flight including a 3rd set, come from behind victory for 1st Singles Terrance Fisher.

The Red Wolves are now 5-0-1 in the Wolverine Conference and tied for 1st Place with one match left to play.

Three Rivers - 0, Paw Paw - 8, Singles: No. 1 - Terrance Fisher, Paw Paw def. Alex Nowak, Three Rivers, 4-6 , 6-4 , 6-3. No. 2 - Eric Fitchpatrick, Paw Paw def. Ebin Perkins, Three Rivers, 6-1 , 6-4. No. 3 - Zach Mahan, Paw Paw def. Carter Fuller, Three Rivers, 6-0 , 6-1. No. 4 - Braden Schultz, Paw Paw def. Default Default, Three Rivers, 2-0 , 2-0 . Doubles: No. 1 - Isaac Geffre, Paw Paw - Anderson Farnquist, Paw Paw def. Parker Bingaman, Three Rivers - Todd Wadsworth, Three Rivers, 6-1 , 6-0. No. 2 - Simon Geffre, Paw Paw - Ethan Groner, Paw Paw def. Frederico De Godoy Barreto, Three Rivers - Brady Stratton, Three Rivers, 6-3 , 6-0. No. 3 - Bryn Carlsen, Paw Paw - Brevyn Wisenski, Paw Paw def. Derek Patch, Three Rivers - Henry Bobell, Three Rivers, 6-1 , 6-0. No. 4 - Jude Webster, Paw Paw - Connor Esman, Paw Paw def. Keagan Boring, Three Rivers - Drew Perez, Three Rivers, 6-0 , 6-0.

Paw Paw's soccer offense continues to explode

By John Raffel
Correspondent

PAW PAW — The Red Wolves Soccer team hosted Three Rivers on Senior Night on Monday and got an 8-1 win.

It was the third straight game Paw Paw has had eight goals.

Three Rivers got on the board first off of a penalty then the rest of the night belonged to the Red Wolves. Scoring started as Santiago Nava Aviles settled the ball at the top of the box before playing through to Lex Lounsbury who ripped a shot over the keepers out stretched hands. The second goal came as Lounsbury beat a couple of defenders before laying a pass off to Enzo Tavela who buried a shot for the 2-1 lead.

Coach Michael Lounsbury said the third goal came as Daniel Diaz received a pass in the middle of the field before connecting with Santiago.

"Santiago faked a shot causing two defenders to collide into each other before placing a shot back post. The second half started quick for the boys as Diaz found Grant Sholander open in front of the goal for a quick tap in," Lounsbury said.

Goal 5 came as Santiago found a streaking Enzo who placed the ball in a corner for his second goal of the night. Avery Williford put the next goal in bending it in off of the corner kick. Goals 7 and 8 came from Diaz who also bent a corner kick in himself. The final goal came as Pablo Soro played the ball out wide to Diaz who placed a shot back post off of his right foot. The game ended in an 8-1 victory with an all senior lineup playing the majority of the second half.

Paw Paw 8, Dowagiac 0

The boys soccer team hosted Dowagiac in a nonconference matchup Saturday morning. The scoring started quick as Enzo Tavela played the ball out wide to Isaac Heffner who exploded past the defense before beating the goalie low for a quick lead. The second goal came as Enzo headed the ball across the box to Avery Williford who cut to the middle and ripped a shot back post for his first varsity goal. The third goal came as Grant Sholander stole the ball at the top of the box and placed a shot in the lower left corner. The fourth goal came as Nate Klein was taken down in the box for a pk.

"Nate stepped up to score his first varsity goal," Lounsbury said Alex Groner set up the next goal as he dribbled into space before playing a thru ball to Aaron Garcia who sprinted past the defense before beating the goalie in the top right corner. Goal six came as Enzo stole a ball out wide before dribbling to the corner.

"He attempted to cross the ball but his pass found the back of the net. Goal seven came as Heffner played the ball out wide to Daniel Diaz who drove towards the goal before playing a cross in. The cross deflected off the back post and in. The last goal of the game came as Diaz played a corner in to Sholander who played it in out of the air for an 8-0 lead. Dowagiac fought hard but went into half time down 8-0 for an early end to the game."

Paw Paw 8, Otsego 2

Paw Paw posted this win on Sept. 24. The Wolves are 11-5-1

The boys soccer team traveled to Otsego for a conference matchup. Scoring started as Lex Lounsbury played a ball into the corner to Grant Sholander who beat the defender and placed the shot short side for the 1-0 lead. The next goal came as Lex played the ball into Daniel Diaz who connected with Enzo Tavela. Enzo cut left and placed a left footed shot back post. The third goal came as Diaz played a corner kick into the box for a diving Sholander who headed the ball past the keeper. The teams went into half time 3-1.

"The Wolves came out on the attack in the second half," Lounsbury said. "Diaz settled the ball and laid it off to Santiago who took a touch and ripped a shot past the keeper from 25 yards out. The attack continued as Connor Graves took the ball wide before splitting the defense inside the box to Sholander. Sholander beat the defender and placed the ball in the low corner. Sholander continued his scoring crashing the net for a rebound after a Tavela shot.

"The 7th goal came as Senior Captain center back Alex Groner stepped up to steal the ball before dribbling through 6 or 7 defenders before ripping a left foot shot off the back post and in. The scoring concluded as Avery Williford dribbled around the attacker before playing a ball through to Diaz who ripped a shot past the keeper for an 8-2 victory.'

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF HEARING
FILE NO. 2025-2089-GM
Court Address: 212 E. PAw Paw Street, Paw Paw, MI 49079
Phone (269)657-8200
IN THE MATTER OF SHILOH RAE BROWN
TAKE NOTICE: A hearing will be held on October 15,2025 (10/15/2025) at 9:30 am at Van buren County Probate Court, Courtroom #3 before Judge Susan Metzger #P62867 for the following purpose(s): (state the nature of the hearing)
Hearing Reference: Petition to Appoint a Guardian for a Minor
You may use Zoom to appear in Virtual Room 3 using meeting ID 277 444 5820. If you have any technical questions, please contact the court by calling or e-mailing us at: 269-657-8225 or probate@vanburencountymi.gov
or
You may appear in person
If you require special accommodations to use the court because of a disability, or if you require a foreign language interpreter to help you full participate in court proceedings, please contact the court immediately to make arrangements.
9/19/2025
Petitioner
Jean Marie Ketchum
58429 Hill Dr.
Lawrence, MI 49064

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1149-DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of
DANIEL L. RIVERA,
Deceased
Date of Birth: July 1,1970 (7/01/1970)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Daniel L. Rivera, died August 20,2025 (8/20/2025).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Nicole A. Peguero** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
9/26/2025
Attorney:
Andrew W. Barnes #P70571
317 Center Street
South Haven, MI 49090
269-287-2010
Personal Representative:
Nicole A. Peguero
605 S. Avon Ct.
Oswego, IL 60543
708-543-1021

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1147-DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of
JANET L. SWIGART
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Janet L. Swigart, deceased, died July 29,2025 (7/29/2025).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Michael C. Swigart** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
9/26/2025
Attorney:
Schuitmaker Moraitis Law Office, P.C.
Christopher N. Moraitis P87052
181 West Michigan Ave., Ste. 1, P.O.Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-657-3177
Personal Representative:
Michael C. Swigart
237 South Railroad Street
Lawton, MI 49065
269-993-9054

State of Michigan
Probate Court Van Buren County
Notice to Creditors
Decedent's Estate
Case 2025-1150-DE
Judge Hon. Susan Metzger
Estate of
DIANE R. FLINN
Date of Birth: September 27,1932 (9/27/1932)
TO ALL CREDITORS:
NOTICE TO CREDITORS:
The decedent, **Diane R. Flinn, died August 26,2025 (8/26/2025).**
Creditors of the decedent are notified that all claims against the estate will be forever barred unless presented to **Louann Bristol** personal representative, or to both the probate court at **212 E. Paw Paw Street, Suite 220, Paw Paw, MI 49079** and the personal representative within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
9/26/2025
Attorney:
Albert W. Laaksonen, II P43920
226 1/2 East Michigan Ave.
Paw Paw, MI 49079
269-655-1035
Personal Representative:
Louann Bristol
806 S. Lincoln Ave.
Three Rivers, MI 49093
269-512-2277

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
LIVING TRUST OF
INEZ L. BITELY
DATED FEBRUARY 21, 2018
TO ALL CREDITORS:
INEZ L. BITELY, who lived at 205 Miller Court, Apt. 104, Paw Paw, MI 49079, died on September
13, 2025. No estate has been filed with any probate court, and it is anticipated that no estate will be filed with any probate court, there being no assets requiring probate. Creditors of **INEZ L. BITELY** are notified that all claims against **INEZ L. BITELY,** or the Living Trust of **Inez L. Bitely dated February 21, 2018**, will be forever barred unless presented to **Nathan A. Bitely, Trustee of the Living Trust of Inez L. Bitely, at P.O. Box 817, Lawton, MI 49065, or Attorney CHRISTOPHER N. MORAITIS,** or both, within 4 months after the date of publication of this notice.
Dated: September 29, 2025
SCHUITMAKER LAW OFFICE, P.C.
Attorney CHRISTOPHER MORAITIS (P87052)
Attorney for
Nathan L. Bitely, Trustee
181 West Michigan Avenue, Ste 1
Post Office Box 520
Paw Paw, MI 49079
(269) 657-3177

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Brittany Grzybowski; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 24-002140-7; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 09, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Brittany Grzybowski and Zack Grzybowski and Melissa Middleton Original Mortgagee: Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. ("MERS"), solely as nominee for lender and lender`s successors and assigns Date of mortgage: November 16, 2021 Recorded on November 30, 2021, Liber 1729, on Page 795, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Two Hundred Thirty-Two Thousand Two Hundred Thirty-Two and 29/100 Dollars ($232,232.29) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: Lots 7 and 8, Block 7, VILLAGE OF GRAND JUNCTION, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 31 of Plats, Page 287, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as 03761 Columbia St, Grand Junction, MI 49056 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1571724
(09-11)(10-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Craig Klapp; Atty: Team H; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: 525780F01; Insurer: FNMA
Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Craig Andrew Klapp, as a single man
Original Mortgagee: Honor Credit Union
Foreclosing Assignee (if any): None
Date of Mortgage: December 14, 2018
Date of Mortgage Recording: December 21, 2018
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $99,092.94
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of South Haven, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lots 2 and 3 and the South 8 feet of Lot 1, Block 9, Hartman's Addition to the Village (now City) of South Haven, according to the plat thereof recorded in liber 1 of plats, Page 74, Van Buren County Records
Common street address (if any): 409 Hubbard St, South Haven, MI 49090-1522
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a; or, if the subject real property is used for agricultural purposes as defined by MCL 600.3240(16).
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: September 25, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1572669
(09-25)(10-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Hernan Hernandez; Atty: Shaheen - Shaheen Jacobs & Ross PC; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: (N/A); Insurer: (unknown)
FORECLOSURE NOTICE (Van Buren County) NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County (at the front steps of the Courthouse in Paw Paw, Michigan), starting promptly at 1:00 o'clock P.M. on Thursday, October 30, 2025. Default has been made in the terms and conditions of the junior mortgage made by Hernan Hernandez and Maritsa Hernandez, husband and wife, as original mortgagors, to The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association, as original mortgagee, dated June 3, 2019, and recorded on June 17, 2019, at the Van Buren County, Michigan Register of Deeds, in Liber 1685, commencing on Page 534. The amount claimed to be due on this mortgage, on the date of this notice, was $32,489.47. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information. The description of the mortgaged premises is all that certain piece or parcel of land situated in the Township of Arlington, in the County of Van Buren and State of Michigan further described as follows: Lot 12, Bangor Heights, according to the recorded plat thereof. ALSO Lot 8, Supervisor's Plat of Zuhl Addition to Bangor, according to the recorded plat thereof, as recorded in Liber 4 of Plats, page 40, Van Buren County Records. Commonly known as: 56844 M 43 Hwy., Bangor, MI and 56821 Orchard Ln., Bangor, MI The redemption period shall be Six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be thirty (30) days from the date of such sale or when the time to provide the notice required by MCLA 600.3241a(c) expires, whichever is later or unless the redemption period is shortened in accordance with MCLA 600.3238. If the property is sold at a foreclosure sale, under MCLA 600.3278, the borrower and mortgagor will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention Homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Attention Purchasers: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to the return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest. Shaheen, Jacobs & Ross, P.C. is a debt collector attempting to collect this debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated: September 15, 2025 The Huntington National Bank, a national banking association Mortgagee SHAHEEN, JACOBS & ROSS, P.C. By: Michael J. Thomas, Esq. Attorneys for Mortgagee 615 Griswold Street, Suite 1425 Detroit, Michigan 48226-3993 (313) 963-1301
(09-25)(10-16)

COUNTY: VAN BUREN; MTGR: ISRAEL OVIEDO; ATTY: TEAM H; 1ST PUB: 9/18/2025; ATTY FILE #: 519955F02; INSURER: (UNKNOWN)
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT
Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information: Name(s) of the mortgagor(s): Israel Oviedo and Juanita Oviedo, his wife Original Mortgagee: Cendant Mortgage Corporation dba PHH Mortgage Services, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): Citibank, N.A. as Trustee for Cendant Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2002-B
Date of Mortgage: August 15, 2001
Date of Mortgage Recording: September 10, 2001
Amount claimed due on date of notice: $50,910.29
Description of the mortgaged premises: Situated in City of Bangor, Van Buren County, Michigan, and described as: Lot 144 of A.H. Morrisons Map of the City of Bangor.
Common street address (if any): 602 Joy St, Bangor, MI 49013-1126
The redemption period shall be 1 year from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCL 600.3241a.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, pursuant to MCL 600.3278 the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period.
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
This notice is from a debt collector.
Date of notice: September 18, 2025
Trott Law, P.C.
31440 Northwestern Hwy, Suite 145
Farmington Hills, MI 48334
(248) 642-2515
1571972
(09-18)(10-09)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: James A. Brown; Atty: Orlans; 1st Pub: 9/11/2025; Atty File #: 25-011389; Insurer: GNMA
Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice.
Notice of foreclosure by advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 9, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property.
A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by James A. Brown, a married man, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, Mortgagee, dated October 15, 2020 and recorded November 2, 2020 in Liber 1708, Page 567 Van Buren County Records, Michigan.
Said mortgage is now held by Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC, by assignment. There is claimed to be due at the date hereof the sum of One Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Eight and 66/100 Dollars ($121,008.66).
Under the power of sale contained in said mortgage and the statute in such case made and provided, notice is hereby given that said mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at public venue at the place of holding the circuit court within Van Buren County, Michigan at 1:00 PM on OCTOBER 9, 2025.
Said premises are located in the Village of Decatur, Van Buren County Michigan, and are described as:
Lot 6, Block 6, Village of Decatur, according to the plat thereof recorded in Liber 2 of plats, Page 31, Van Buren County Records.
206 Clark St, Decatur, Michigan 49045
The redemption period shall be 6 months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA §600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale.
If the property is sold at foreclosure sale, pursuant to MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damage to the property during the redemption period.
Dated: September 11, 2025
File No. 25-011389
Firm Name: Orlans Law Group PLLC
Firm Address: 1650 West Big Beaver Road, Troy MI 48084
Firm Phone Number: (248) 502.1400
(09-11)(10-02)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Rhonda S Johnston; Atty: Schneiderman & Sherman, P.C. - Schneiderman & Sherman, PC; 1st Pub: 9/25/2025; Atty File #: 25-002634-1; Insurer: (unknown)
SHORT FORECLOSURE NOTICE - VAN BUREN COUNTY Notice of Foreclosure by Advertisement. Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA 236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 PM, on October 23, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE: Mortgagor(s): Rhonda S. Johnston, a single person Original Mortgagee: Summit National Mortgage, LLC Date of mortgage: June 27, 2012 Recorded on July 3, 2012, Liber 1569, on Page 649, Foreclosing Assignee (if any): M&T Bank Amount claimed to be due at the date hereof: Fifty-Seven Thousand Two Hundred Forty-Five and 40/100 Dollars ($57,245.40) Mortgaged premises: Situated in Van Buren County, and described as: That part of the Southwest quarter of the Northeast quarter of Section 14, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, described as beginning at a point found by commencing at the center of the Northeast quarter of Section 14, Town 3 South, Range 14 West, according to the Government Survey thereof, thence South along the Eighth line 520.84 feet to a point which is 7.74 chains South of the intersection of said Eighth line and the centerline of Paw Paw Road, thence North 89 degrees 15` West 410.84 feet to the point of beginning of this description; thence South 240.0 feet, thence North 89 degrees 15` West to the center line of said road, thence Northeasterly on same to a point which is North 89 degrees 15` West of beginning, thence South 89 degrees 15` East to beginning. Commonly known as 36731 Paw Paw Rd, Paw Paw, MI 49079 The redemption period will be 6 month from the date of such sale, unless abandoned under MCL 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period will be 30 days from the date of such sale, or 15 days from the MCL 600.3241a(b) notice, whichever is later; or unless extinguished pursuant to MCL 600.3238. If the above referenced property is sold at a foreclosure sale under Chapter 32 of Act 236 of 1961, under MCL 600.3278, the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder for damaging the property during the redemption period. Attention homeowner: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. M&T Bank Mortgagee/ Assignee Schneiderman & Sherman P.C. 23938 Research Dr, Suite 300 Farmington Hills, MI 48335 248.539.7400 1572956
(09-25)(10-16)

County: Van Buren; Mtgr: Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen; Atty: QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER - QUINTAIROS PRIETO WOOD & BOYER; 1st Pub: 10/2/2025; Atty File #: MI-005529; Insurer: (unknown)
NOTICE OF MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE SALE THIS FIRM IS A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION WE OBTAIN WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE AT THE NUMBER BELOW IF YOU ARE IN ACTIVE MILITARY DUTY. ATTN PURCHASERS: This sale may be rescinded by the foreclosing mortgagee. In that event, your damages, if any, shall be limited solely to return of the bid amount tendered at sale, plus interest.
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY ADVERTISEMENT: Notice is given under section 3212 of the revised judicature act of 1961, 1961 PA236, MCL 600.3212, that the following mortgage will be foreclosed by a sale of the mortgaged premises, or some part of them, at a public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash or cashier's check at the place of holding the circuit court in Van Buren County, starting promptly at 1:00 P.M., on November 20, 2025. The amount due on the mortgage may be greater on the day of the sale. Placing the highest bid at the sale does not automatically entitle the purchaser to free and clear ownership of the property. A potential purchaser is encouraged to contact the county register of deeds office or a title insurance company, either of which may charge a fee for this information.
MORTGAGE SALE: Default has been made in the conditions of a mortgage made by Gerrit Peter Oppenhuizen a/k/a Gerrit P. Oppenhuizen, the original Mortgagor; and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., as nominee for Amerifirst Financial Corporation, the original Mortgagee; dated May 16, 2016, and recorded on May 18, 2016, in Liber 1636, at Page 341, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan; and last assigned to Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC, the Foreclosing Assignee; as documented by an Assignment of Mortgage dated August 2, 2019, and recorded on August 7, 2019, in Liber 1687, at Page 614, in Van Buren County Records, Michigan, on which mortgage there is claimed to be due and owing as of the date of this Notice, the sum of Sixty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Five and 76/100 U.S. Dollars ($63,375.76). Said premise is situated at 11111 32nd Street, Gobles, MI 49055, in the Township of Pine Grove, Van Buren County, Michigan, and is described as: LEGAL DESCRIPTION: TOWNSHIP OF PINE GROVE, COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, AND STATE OF MICHIGAN: COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SECTION 17, TOWN 1 SOUTH, RANGE 13 WEST; THENCE NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE WEST SECTION LINE 979.09 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS EAST ALONG SAID SECTION LINE 340.25 FEET; THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS EAST 385.28 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 2 DEGREES 8 MINUTES 30 SECONDS WEST 340.25 FEET; THENCE

Continues on page 10

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ANTWERP TOWNSHIP ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

The Antwerp Township Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a public hearing regarding the following appeal of a determination by the Zoning Administrator. Public comments on the matter are welcome.

Application
- Request: Appeal of the Zoning Administrator's determination that the operation of a police department practice shooting range is not permitted at the subject property.
- Zoning District: Agricultural & Open Space Residential (AG) Zoning District
- Location: 72nd Avenue
- Parcel Number: 80-02-031-011-00
- Owner/Applicant: Village of Lawton

Meeting and Hearing Information
- Location: Antwerp Township offices located at 24821 Front Street, Mattawan, MI 49071
- Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025
- Time: 6:30 PM
- Project Details: call (269) 668-2615

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the ZBA Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Continues from page 9

SOUTH 89 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 32 SECONDS WEST 385.28 FEET TO THE WEST SECTION LINE AND THE PLACE OF BEGINNING. The redemption period shall be six (6) months from the date of such sale, unless determined abandoned in accordance with MCLA 600.3241a, in which case the redemption period shall be 30 days from the date of such sale. Pursuant to Chapter 32 of the Revised Judicature Act of 1961, if the property is sold at foreclosure sale the borrower will be held responsible to the person who buys the property at the mortgage foreclosure sale or to the mortgage holder under MCLA 600.3278 for damaging the property during the redemption period. ATTENTION HOMEOWNER: If you are a military service member on active duty, if your period of active duty has concluded less than 90 days ago, or if you have been ordered to active duty, please contact the attorney for the party foreclosing the mortgage at the telephone number stated in this notice. Dated: 09/25/2025 For More Information, please call: Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A. Attorneys for Servicer 255 South Orange Avenue, Suite 900 Orlando, Florida 32801 (855) 287-0240 Matter No. MI-005529-24-2

(10-02)(10-23)

NOTICE OF ELECTION CITY OF BANGOR, MICHIGAN NOVEMBER 4th, 2025 ELECTION

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BANGOR:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a regular election will be held in the City of Bangor on

Tuesday November 4th, 2025
The Polls will be open from 7:00am to 8:00pm

At the following location:
Precinct 1
257 W. Monroe Street Bangor MI 49013

For the purpose of:
Proposal, District Library, Van Buren District Library Millage Renewal

Electors may obtain Absentee Ballots from the City Clerk's office at 257 W Monroe St.

BANGOR CITY CLERK
SHELLY UMBANHOWAR

PUBLIC NOTICE CITY OF BANGOR

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the **Public Accuracy Test** for the **November 4, 2025 Special Election** has been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 10:30 AM** in the **City Hall Council Room, 257 West Monroe St., Bangor, Michigan.**

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Shelly Umbanhowar
City of Bangor Clerk

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PAW PAW TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

The Paw Paw Township Planning Commission will hold a public hearing regarding the following request. The public is invited to comment on the matter.

Application:
- Request: Special land use and site plan for a detached accessory building (garage) to be constructed with a 20-foot side setback (reduction of 20 feet) and a 20-foot rear setback (reduction of 40 feet).
- Zoning District: ARR
- Project Address: 44211 Paw Paw Road, Paw Paw, MI 49079
- Project Parcel Number: 80-14-332-044-00
- Applicant: Harvey Workman IV

Meeting Information:
- Location: Paw Paw Township Hall, 114 N. Gremps St., Paw Paw, MI, 49079
- Date: October 21, 2025
- Time: 6:00 PM
- Hearing and project information: call 269-657-4340 or email clerk@pawpawtownship.org

Those unable to attend the public hearing are invited to submit written comments to the attention of the Planning Commission Chair at the Township Hall address listed above by 4:00 PM on the meeting date. If any individual has a physical disability that may limit their participation in the hearing, please notify the Township at least five (5) days prior to the hearing so that reasonable accommodations may be made.

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 CONSOLIDATED ELECTION VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS

OF **ALMENA TOWNSHIP, ANTWERP TOWNSHIP, BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP, LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP, PAW PAW TOWNSHIP, PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP, PORTER TOWNSHIP, WAVERLY TOWNSHIP AND THE CITY OF GOBLES**

COUNTY OF VAN BUREN, STATE OF MICHIGAN

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the above-named jurisdictions who is not already registered, may register to vote at the office of the Township or City Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency or online at www.Michigan.gov/Voterregistration. Registration forms can be obtained at www.Michigan.Gov/Vote and mailed to the City or Township Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at www.express.SOS.com.

The last day to register in any manner other than in-person with the local clerk is **Monday, October 20, 2025.** After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.492) at the local clerk's office (addresses and hours listed below).

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
Almena Twp. Hall
27625 CR 375, Paw Paw
Sandra Rickli, Twp Clerk
Mon, Wed, Th 9 am – 4 pm
Sat 11/1 8 am – 4 pm

ANTWERP TOWNSHIP
Antwerp Township Hall
24821 Front St., Mattawan
Chantel Reyna, Twp Clerk
Mon - Th 7 am – 5 pm
Sat 11/1 8 am – 4 pm

BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP
Bloomingdale Twp Hall
Bloomingdale
Melanie Kelly, Twp Clerk
Mon – Wed 9 am – 2 pm
Sat 11/1 9 am – 1 pm
Sun 11/2 9 am – 1 pm– 3 pm

LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP
Lawrence Twp Hall
411 N Paw Paw St
Lawrence
Michelle Meert, Twp Clerk
Mon – Fri 8 am – 3 pm
Sat 11/1 10 am – 2 pm
Sun 11/2 10 am - 2 pm

PAW PAW TOWNSHIP
Paw Paw Twp Hall
114 North Gremps St.
Paw Paw
Judy Janssen, Twp Clerk
Mon – Wed 8 am – 3 pm
Thurs 8 am – 11 am
Sat 11/1 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

PINE GROVE TOWNSHIP
Pine Grove Twp Hall
26520 CR 388 Gobles
Rebecca Payne, Twp Clerk
Mon, Tues, Th 9 am – 12 noon
Sat 11/1 7 am – 3 pm

PORTER TOWNSHIP
Porter Township Hall
88040 M-40 Hwy Lawton
Heather Smith, Twp Clerk
By Appt - Mon – Fri 3 – 5 pm
Sat 11/1 9 am – 5 pm

WAVERLY TOWNSHIP
Waverly Township Hall
42114 M-43 Hwy Paw Paw
Starr Houston, Twp Clerk
Mon - Wed 9 am – 12 noon
Sat 11/1 9 am – 5 pm

CITY OF GOBLES
Gobles City Hall
105 E Main St, Gobles
Paula Sipes, City Clerk
Mon – Fri 8:30 am – 4:30 pm
Sat 11/1 7 am – 3 pm

All clerks will be open 7 am – 8 pm on Tuesday, November 4, 2025

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the election will be conducted in the townships and city listed for the following purposes:

PROPOSAL SECTION
District Library
Van Buren District Library Millage Renewal

Shall the Van Buren District Library, County of Van Buren, be authorized to levy a millage annually in an amount not to exceed .1984 mill ($0.1984 per $1,000 of taxable value), which is a renewal of the millage rate that was last levied in 2024, against all taxable property within the Van Buren District Library district for a period of ten (10) years, 2025 through 2034, inclusive, for the purpose of providing funds for all district library purposes authorized by law? The estimate of the revenue the Van Buren District Library will collect if the millage is approved and levied by the Van Buren District Library in the first year (2025) is approximately $484,000. To the extent required by law, a portion of the revenues from this millage will be captured within the district and disbursed to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority of Van Buren County. Pursuant to Funding and Reciprocal Borrowing Agreements, 75% of the millage revenues received from Porter Township will be disbursed to the Village of Lawton Public Library and 10% of the millage revenues received from Bangor Township will be disbursed to the Hartford Public Library.

City Specific

NONPARTISAN SECTION
Gobles City
City Commissioner

Three (3) Candidates running for Three (3) Seats

A sample ballot may be viewed at mi.gov/vote.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations as defined by the American with Disabilities Act should contact the local clerk's office.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that **The Shed Self Storage**, phone **(269) 200-2156,** located at **72819 M 40, Lawton, MI, 49065** will hold a Public Sale, to satisfy the lien of the owner. This notice is given in accordance with the provisions of Michigan Compiled Statutes 570.521 to 570.527. Units will be sold via online auction, at **www.Storageauctions.com.** Auction will close on or after **Wednesday October 22, 2025 at 10:00 am.** The personal goods stored therein by the following may include, but are not limited to household goods, furniture, tools, equipment, toys, boxes, clothes and misc items. Owner reserves the right to bid and the right to refuse bids. Cleanup deposit is required. Sale is subject to cancellation. The contents of the rental storage units belonging to the following persons will be sold: **Timothy Davis, Gordon Becker**

ALMENA TOWNSHIP
27625 CR 375
PAW PAW MI 49079
269-668-6910
Almenatownship.org

PUBLIC NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Almena Township has scheduled the Public **Accuracy Test** for the November 4, 2025 Special Election for Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at the Almena Township Hall located at 27625 CR 375 Paw Paw, MI 49079. The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program and the computer being used to record and tabulate the votes cast at the election counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Sandra B. Rickli
Almena Township Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy test for the November 4,2025 Van Buren County District Library Millage Special Election has been scheduled for Monday, October 6,2025 at 10:00am in the Municipal Building meeting room,109 E. Kalamazoo, Mi.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Melanie Kelly
Bloomingdale Township Clerk

CLASSIFIEDS

• WANTED •

WE BUY OLD BASEBALL CARDS, OTHER SPORTS MEMORABILIA AND OLD VINTAGE COINS. CAN BE REACHED AT 517-416-1629. WE PAY CASH.

CLARK'S AUTO PARTS, INC. is buying cars, trucks & all metals for recycling. Lawrence, 674-4905 or 1-800-707-8650.

STANDING TIMBER. Top Michigan lumber manufacturer seeking landowners with 25 or more mature hardwood trees to sell. Qualityhardwoodsinc.com • 517-566-8061.

• SERVICES •

TIM'S STUMP GRINDING SERVICE- I believe in respectable service. 269-299-5052, 269-624-6884.

GRANT DALY PAINTING: Interior/exterior residential, commercial, industrial. Great references & free estimates. Call 657-7893.

HAULING, CLEANING RECYCLING. Moving service. Right Quick Hauling. Dan Wydick, Dustin Wydick, Daniel Wydick, 423-8545. Serving since 1994.

FIELD PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. Services all brands of heating & cooling equipment in your home or business. 24/7 service for over 50 years, 269-674-3839.

BUYING JUNK CARS, trucks, scrap metal and farm machinery. Kalamazoo Metal Recyclers, 1525 King Highway, Kalamazoo. 269-381-1315.

BUDGET APPLIANCE SERVICE, 269-685-8902. Call us today for your appliance repair or service needs! Quality service at affordable prices.

PRO HANDYMAN SERVICE SOUTH HAVEN AREA Call 269-903-6397.

• HOUSING •

WANTED IN SOUTH HAVEN Rental for winter months.

MEDICARE GURU
Call
Janet Bontrager
Insurance Advisor
(269) 998-6977

Oct 2025 thru April 30, 2026. 3 bedrooms. 240-215-5081.

• AUCTION •

ALL SECURE SELF STORAGE will hold sale of abandoned property at a public sale pursuant in 540.521-570.527: Public Auction: 9/30/2025 at or after 9:30a.m. EST: 37404 W Red Arrow Highway Paw Paw: Chris Beeman, 10; Erin Hagenbuch, 55; Daniel Hossler, 234.

• PUPPIES •

GREAT PYRENEES, 2 MALES, all shots and neutered, 6 months old. $600 each. 269-767-6105.

• SALES •

BARN SALE Lots of building materials, movies, records, tables, chairs, storage containers. All contents will be sold. Pole barn and property to be sold in future. Thurs-Fri- Sat, 10-6. next door to 47 Marion St, Hartford.

• FOR SALE •

SCRAPBOOKING ITEMS- 60 Martha Stewart punches- lightly used or brand new, 2 manual die-cutting machines, $125. 269-521-7590.

Trinity Lutheran School students visit GeoScape

Trinity Lutheran School's third through fifth grade students spent an afternoon at GeoScape, Red Arrow Highway, Paw Paw. Owner-geologist, Eric Larcinese, using hands-on techniques, taught the students about different rocks, minerals, and crystal formations. This educational field trip was part of Trinity's Michigan History and Earth Science curricula. Courier-Leader photos/Paul Garrod

Lawrence homecoming court announced

The Lawrene Tigers held football homecoming Friday night, Sept. 26. Named homecoming royalty was King Zac Plane and Queen Evie Mead. Photo courtesy/Lawrence Public Schools

Moraitis launches State Senate bid

PAW PAW - On Monday, Sept. 29, Chris Moraitis, a Van Buren County attorney and community leader announced that he will be seeking the Republican nomination for Michigan State Senate District 20 to replace outgoing Senate Minority Leader, Aric Nesbitt. "I am running because I am deeply invested in the future of Michigan," Moraitis said. "I want to ensure that improving our economy, education, and roads remain a priority for the hard-working people of Michigan."

Moraitis has been a staple in the community where he is actively involved in serving on the board for Paw Paw's Downtown Development Authority and membership in the local Rotary Club.

One of Moraitis's biggest motivations for entering the race is his passion for serving his community. As the Van Buren County Bar Association president, Moraitis works diligently to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and business leaders in the community. Additionally, Moraitis, as Partner of Schuitmaker Moraitis Law, P.C. serves as legal counsel for multiple local townships, including Porter, Waverly, Marcellus, and Bangor.

"I am absolutely dedicated to serving my community and working with all elected leaders at the local, state, and federal level," said Moraitis.

Daniel Abbott, Van Buren County sheriff, said about Moraitis, "I've had the opportunity to work with many local leaders, and Chris has been one who stands out with his level of integrity and commitment to public safety. He stands by law enforcement and understands the importance of keeping our communities safe. I'm proud to endorse Chris Moraitis for State Senate in the 20th District."

Moraitis continued, "It's time to secure Michigan's future today!"

Moraitis completed his undergraduate studies at Michigan State University with a major in political theory, then successfully obtained his J.D. from the MSU College of Law. Moraitis resides in Paw Paw, with his wife, Savina.

Moraitis will host a campaign launch event at St. Julian Winery & Distillery, Paw Paw, on Wednesday, Oct. 1, from 6 to 8 p.m.

Chris Moraitis ,shown with wife, Savina,announced his bid to run for the state Senate seat held By Aric Nesbitt,who is term-limited

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PUBLIC NOTICE
WAVERLY TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy Test for the November 4, 2025 Special Election has been scheduled for Monday, October 6, 2025 at 10:30 AM in the Township Hall Meeting Room, 42114 M43 HWY, Paw Paw, Michigan

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted To demonstrate that the program and computer that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Starr Houston
Township Clerk

JOB POSTING
LAWRENCE TOWNSHIP BOARD IS HIRING A FIRE/ EMERGENCY SERVICES CHIEF

Fire Chief Qualifications as per State Requirements.
If you are Qualified and interested, please send a Resume to:

Lawrence Township
Trustee Tom Reynnells
P.O. Box 445
Lawrence, MI 49064
By October 10, 2025

For Full Job Description
Call Tom Reynnells
At 269-330-1512 or e-mail
tomlindareynnells@yahoo.com

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269-217-3029 JIM

PUBLIC NOTICE
BLOOMINGDALE TOWNSHIP

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Public Accuracy test for the November 4,2025 Van Buren County District Library Millage Special Election has been scheduled for Monday, October 6,2025 at 10:00am in the Municipal Building meeting room,109 E. Kalamazoo, Mi.

The Public Accuracy Test is conducted to demonstrate that the program that will be used to tabulate the results of the election, counts the votes in the manner prescribed by law.

Melanie Kelly
Bloomingdale Township Clerk

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY NOVEMBER 4, 2025 CITY OF BANGOR, MICHIGAN

TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BANGOR:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that any qualified elector of the City of Bangor who is not already registered may register to vote at the office of the City Clerk; the office of the County Clerk; a Secretary of State branch office, or other designated state agency. Registration forms can be obtained at **mi.gov/vote** and mailed to the City Clerk. Voters who are already registered may update their registration at **www.expressSOS.com.**

The last day to register in any manner other than in person with the local clerk is Monday, October 20th, 2025

After this date, anyone who qualifies as an elector may register to vote in person with proof of residency (MCL 168.497) at the City of Bangor Clerk's office, located at 257 W. Monroe St. Bangor, MI 49013 at the following times:

- Regular business hours: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Saturday, November 1st from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- Election Day, Tuesday, November 4th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE on the ballot is: Proposal, District Library, Van Buren District Library Millage Renewal.

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the City of Bangor Clerks office, 257 W. Monroe St. Bangor, MI 49013, telephone: 269-427-5831. A sample ballot may be viewed at **mi.gov/vote.**

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations should contact the clerk's office.

Shelly Umbanhowar
City of Bangor Clerk

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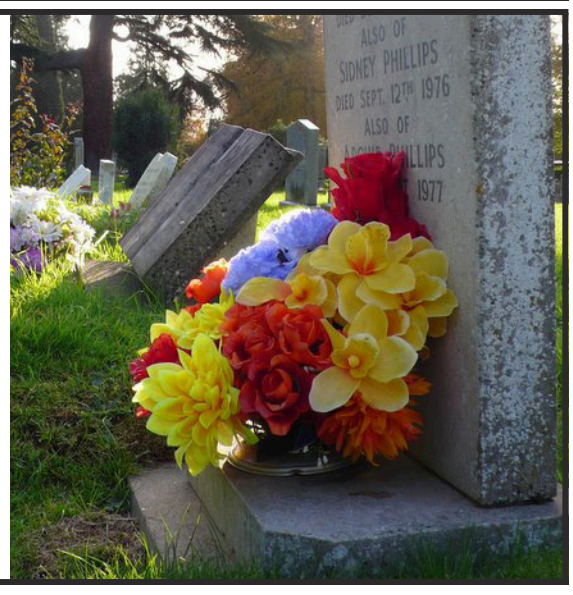
NOTICE

Please remove all summer wreaths, and flower decorations from Paw Paw Township cemeteries

BEFORE OCTOBER 1 ST

Thank You
Paw Paw Township Supervisor.



SERVICE DIRECTORY

FOR MORE INFO OR TO PLACE AN AD
Call (269) 657-5080
Before Monday at 5:00 pm

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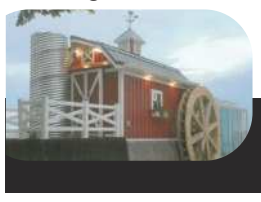
Business hours
Mon - Sat 8:00am-8:00pm
Sunday Closed
58332 48th Ave, Lawrence, MI 49064
269-363-0599

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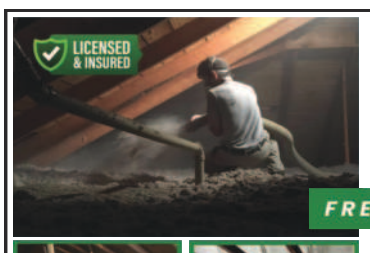
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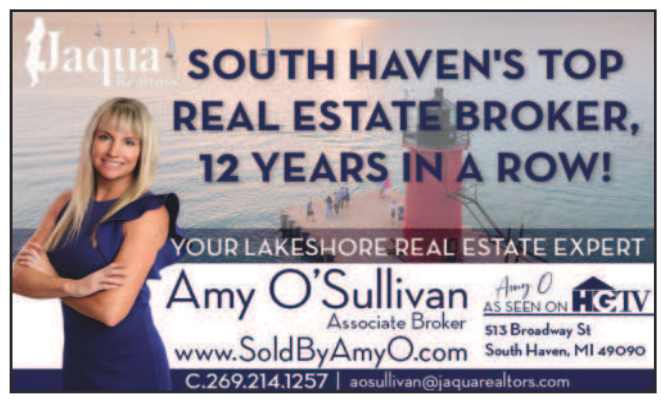
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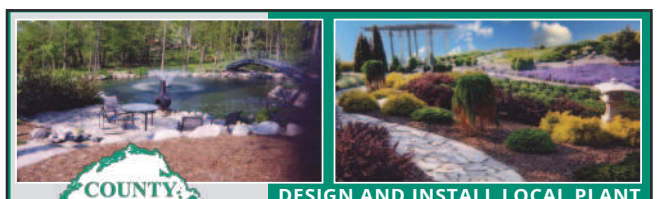
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